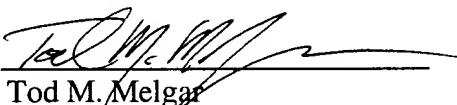


AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this paper to Deposit Account 13-4500, Order No. 2629-4016US1.  
A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: May 16, 2002

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## APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES  
MADE TO AMENDED CLAIMS

2. (Amended) The device of claim +5, wherein the filter is polycarbonate.
3. (Amended) The device of claim +5, wherein the absorbent filter is a polyvinyl acetal foam.
4. (Amended) The device of claim +5, wherein the absorbent filter is 100% -cotton fiber.
5. (Amended) A device for facilitating the preparation of cytology slides, the device comprising:
  - a first cover having an inside surface;
  - a second cover having an inside surface, the second cover hingeably attached to the first cover so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;
  - an absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the first cover;
  - a filter, ~~the filter overlays~~ overlaying the absorbent material; and
  - a cytology slide, ~~wherein the cytology slide is~~ removeably mounted to the inside surface of the second cover, the slide being positioned on the inside surface of the second cover to contact with the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

6. (Amended) The device of claim 5, wherein the hingeable attachment is formed by a single, continuous ~~piece~~hinge.

7. (Amended) The device of claim 5, wherein the hingeable attachment is formed by a plurality of ~~interconnected pieces~~hinges.

9. (Amended) A method of preparing cytology slides, the method comprising:  
~~combining a cellular sample with a liquid-based medium to create a solution;~~  
~~removing an aliquot from the solution;~~  
providing a slide preparation device comprising a first cover having an inside surface, a second cover having an inside surface, said first and second covers ~~pivotably~~  
hingedly secured to each other so as to be foldable into a book form, an absorbent material mounted to the inside surface of the first cover, ~~a filter, wherein~~ the filter overlays the absorbent material and a slide attached to the inside surface of the second cover;

~~applying the~~an aliquot of a cytology sample to the filter; and  
closing the book form so that the filter containing the aliquot contacts the slide;

and

~~applying a pressure to the first and second covers.~~

11. (Amended) A device for facilitating the preparation of a plurality of cytology slides, the device comprising:

a cover having an inside surface;

a base having an inside surface;  
an interposed hinge, said cover and base pivotably-hingeably secured to the hinge so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;  
a plurality of absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the cover;  
a filter, the filter overlaying the absorbent material; and  
a plurality of cytology slides, each cytology slide corresponding to one of the absorbent material mounted on the cover, wherein the cytology slides are mounted to the inside surface of the base, each slide being positioned on the inside surface of the base to contact the corresponding absorbent material and the filter when the book form is in the closed position.